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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

Item: E-1

MINUTES

San Joaquin River Conservancy Board Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Meeting Location:

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board Room
5469 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727

and via phone conference:

California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

and

California Department of Finance
State Capitol, Room 1145
Acorn Conference Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

5469 E. Olive Avenue
Fresno, California 93727
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GOVERNING BOARD

Steve Brandau, Chairperson
Councilmember, City of Fresno

Andreas Borgeas, Vice-Chairperson
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Brett Frazier
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Derek Robinson
Councilmember, City of Madera

Barbara Goodwin, Director
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control
District

Carl Janzen, Director
Madera Irrigation District

Jeffrey Single, Regional Manager
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kent Gresham, Sector Superintendent
Department of Parks & Recreation

John Donnelly, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board

Patrick Kemp, Assistant Secretary
Natural Resources Agency

Michael McKown, Designee
State Lands Commission

Eraina Ortega, Chief Deputy Director
Department of Finance

Bryn Forhan
Paul Gibson
Carolyn Nolan
Citizen Representatives

Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Steve Brandau called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

Name	Present	Telecon- ference	Absent	Late
Mr. Steve Brandau, Chair	X			
Mr. Andreas Borgeas			X	
Mr. Brett Frazier	X			
Mr. Derek Robinson	X			
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X			
Mr. Carl Janzen	X			
Dr. Jeff Single	X			
Mr. Kent Gresham	X			
Mr. John Donnelly		X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp		X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X			
Ms. Karen Finn		X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan				10:35
Mr. Paul Gibson	X			
Ms. Carolyn Nolan				10:40

Ms. Harris confirmed that a quorum was present.

Legal Counsel Present:

Michael Crow, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present:

Melinda Marks, Executive Officer

Joshua Morgan, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Rebecca Harris, Staff Services Analyst

B. PUBLIC COMMENT & BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

The first ten minutes of the meeting are reserved for members of the public who wish to address the Conservancy Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Conservancy. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Board does not respond to the public comment at this time.

There were no comments from the public.

Chairperson Brandau provided a letter to the Board and the public from the City of Fresno's attorney in response to the letter from the Parkway Trust's attorney from January's board meeting. The letters described the implications of the City General Plan policies associated with access to the San Joaquin River Parkway from Riverview Drive.

Ms. Forhan arrived at 10:35 a.m.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Items identified after preparation of the agenda for which there is a need to take immediate action. Two-thirds vote required for consideration. (Gov. Code § 54954.2(b)(2))

It was moved by Mr. Janzen and seconded by Ms. Forhan to approve the agenda as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following roll call vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		

D. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the matter. (FPPC §97105)

None.

E. MINUTES

E-1 Approve Minutes of January 21, 2015

It was moved by Mr. Frazier and seconded by Ms. Forhan to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015, as presented. The motion was unanimously passed by the voting members. Mr. Janzen and Dr. Single abstained, as they were not present during the January meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau,	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen			X
Dr. Jeff Single			X
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed below will be approved in one motion unless removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion:

F-1 Reminder to File Statements of Economic Interest and Complete Biennial Ethics Training, Due April 1, 2015

Staff Recommendation: This report is provided for informational purposes. No Board action is recommended.

F-2 Authorize the Release of Applications for Minor Program Service Agreements for 2015

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize the release of Minor Program Service Agreement applications for 2015.

It was moved by Mr. Frazier and seconded by Mr. Gibson to approve the consent items as recommended. The motion unanimously passed.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		

Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		

G. DISCUSSION

- G-1 Resolutions of Appreciation for Service on San Joaquin River Conservancy Board, Madera City Councilmember Donald E. Holley and Madera County Supervisor Max Rodriguez

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board adopt Resolution of Appreciation 15-01 for Madera City Councilman Donald E. Holley and Resolution of Appreciation 15-02 for Madera County Supervisor Max Rodriguez to commend and thank them for their service to the San Joaquin River Conservancy and dedication to the development and implementation of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Ms. Marks announced that Councilmember Holley was present to receive his resolution. She read into record the Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Holley and noted that there was a similar Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Rodriguez.

Board members and staff expressed their appreciation for the service of the outgoing Board members, and in particular noted the many years of public service and institutional knowledge of Mr. Holley and Mr. Rodriguez.

Mr. Holley stated that serving on the Board was a pleasure and a privilege.

Ms. Nolan arrived at 10:40 a.m.

A motion to approve Resolution 15-01 for Mr. Holley as recommended was made by Mr. Frazier, seconded by Mr. Robinson, and unanimously approved by the Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		

Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

A motion to approve Resolution 15-02 for Mr. Rodriguez as recommended was made by Mr. Janzen, seconded by Ms. Nolan, and unanimously approved by the Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

G-2 Announcement of Sycamore Island Fishing Derby, March 7, 2015

Staff Recommendation: This report is provided for informational purposes. No Board action is recommended.

Mr. Morgan presented a brief summary of the history and background of the Sycamore Island Fishing Derby. He noted that the derby is co-sponsored by Trout Unlimited, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Conservancy.

On inquiry from Ms. Nolan, Mr. Morgan reported that there is no registration fee for the Derby, only the regular day use fee of \$9 per vehicle and additional \$5 for a trailer or boat. The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust is providing most of the staffing and the CDFW is stocking the ponds with trout.

Mr. Gibson commented on what a great event this is, having attended last year.

Steve Thao from Trout Unlimited presented a short video from last year's Fishing Derby. He invited the Board members, staff, and members of the public to attend the Sycamore Island Fishing Derby on March 7, 2015.

On inquiry from Mr. Brandau, Mr. Thao reported that the derby starts at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m. The reward ceremony and the raffle drawing for the grand prize, a lifetime fishing license donated by NRDC, are at 12:00 p.m.

On inquiry from Ms. Nolan about the Board's concern that some people were turned away at the gate for last year's event, Mr. Morgan reported that more people showed up than pre-registered in 2014, and attendance was at or near the site's normal operating capacity of 400, so people were turned away. The event was crowded in areas, but it wouldn't have significantly exceeded 400 visitors if everyone had entered. This year staff will accommodate everyone that shows up and no one will be turned away.

On inquiry from Mr. Frazier, Mr. Morgan reported that pre-registration and more information are available at the Parkway Trust's website.

Dr. Single noted that one trout pond was particularly crowded last year because CDFW stocked the pond with 6,000 pounds of trout and some of the trout were tagged with \$10 reward tags.

There was no further discussion and the item required no action by the board.

G-3 Presentation by Bellezze Naturali Regarding the Exploration of Private, Agency, and Community Partnerships to Develop and Manage Public Trails, River Access, and Parkway Recreation in the Vicinity of Ball Ranch and Ledger Island

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board direct staff to explore public, private, and community partnerships to develop and sustain Parkway trails and public access facilities in the vicinity of the Conservancy's Ball Ranch and Ledger Island with Bellezze Naturali, the owner of privately held lands adjacent to Ball Ranch, Ledger Island, and the San Joaquin River, and with the planning staffs of the County of Fresno and County of Madera.

Ms. Marks provided an overview of Bellezze Naturali and Conservancy, CDFW, and State Lands Commission property ownerships in the area. Bellezze Naturali is initiating discussions regarding the potential for them to provide public Parkway services in the Ledger Island and Ball Ranch area.

Brent McCaffrey, president of both Bellezze Naturali and McCaffrey Homes, presented a conceptual proposal to develop a public trail system between Ledger Island, Ball Ranch, and future neighboring communities in the Rio Mesa area of Madera County. He noted that operations and maintenance of the trail system can be managed through a public and private partnership. He expressed that the concept is consistent with the San Joaquin River Conservancy's mission and San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan's goals and objectives. This opportunity could create 50 miles of connected public trails within the Parkway and Rio Mesa.

Randy Jackson, President of Placeworks planning consultants, has been working with the McCaffreys on the Tesoro Viejo project. He shared some concepts regarding river access, trail expansion, and canoe access needed in the area. He noted that the public trail system within Tesoro Viejo could be connected to planned Ledger Island and Ball Ranch trails. Public facilities such as a canoe house, a café, and a fishing club could be developed on McCaffrey property.

Tony Oliva, attorney for Bellezze Naturali, reported that he has met with Shelli Haaf and Mr. McKown from State Lands Commission and Ms. Marks to discuss what needs to take place in order to bring this plan to reality. He noted that Bellezze Naturali will need to enter into a boundary agreement with State Lands Commission. He also noted that there will have to be some form of agreement between Bellezze Naturali

and the Conservancy with regard to operations and maintenance. He asked the Board to support the investigation of the opportunities and authorize the Executive Officer to move forward in these negotiations.

On inquiry from Ms. Nolan about the location of the proposed public facilities, Mr. Jackson reported that they envision that eventually the café and other features would be located on the Madera side of the San Joaquin River northwest of Ledger Island on private property, and on private property on the Fresno side at the western end of the private access road to the Ledger island bridge.

Ms. Marks added that the counties have jurisdiction over land use on private property and the Conservancy's role would be to recommend that any development should be consistent with the Parkway Master Plan.

On inquiry from Mr. Brandau, Mr. McCaffrey reported that this is one of the first steps of several to get started. They would like to develop the partnership in the near future.

Norman Allinder, County of Madera Planning Director, noted the strong relationship between the County of Madera and the Conservancy. The County is very supportive of the possibility of a public and private partnership for the public benefit.

On inquiry from Mr. Gibson, Mr. Allinder reported that they are expecting a population of 30,000 in Rio Mesa. He noted that in the next couple years they may have several thousand homes and commercial development in the area. Tesoro Viejo will have approximately 800 homes in the first phase.

Mr. Janzen stated that the Conservancy's problem is that we don't have money for operations and maintenance. Private partnerships need to be explored. The Conservancy should start working on this early and in advance.

Ms. Goodwin noted that she likes the potential of this type of partnership. She cautioned that operations and maintenance needs to be consistently provided over the long-term. Government is less susceptible to economic downturns than private developers. Any agreements should include provisions outlining responsibilities for consistent funding and contingencies. She expressed her support for further talks and analyses.

Mr. Frazier noted that at the joint meeting between the counties the one thing that kept coming up was the need to increase river access and how we might provide greater access. The county board members agreed that there needs to be connected access on both sides of the river. He agreed with Mr. Janzen that we need to explore this now.

Dr. Single stated it's a potential opportunity and he supports staff's recommendation.

Public Comments:

Mr. Dave Koehler, Executive Director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, thanked Mr. McCaffrey and Bellezze Naturali for bringing this opportunity forward. He expressed the need for public involvement in the process, and requested public workshops to explore the proposal. He expressed concern that the map attached to the staff report did not show the state sovereign lands riverward of the private ownerships.

Ms. Marks confirmed that State Lands Commission has discussed with Bellezze Naturali the need to settle boundaries.

On inquiry from Mr. Frazier, Ms. Marks reported that staff is merely requesting direction to explore a possible partnership. Bellezze Naturali would be required to ensure that their trail alignments on Conservancy property are consistent with the Ball Ranch Master Plan and San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan.

Ms. Clary Creager, a founding member of the Parkway Trust, agrees with Mr. Koehler that the Conservancy shouldn't rush into agreements. Planning needs to be done through agencies and needs to balance what public uses are appropriate. The river is an asset to the entire community, not just development, and we need to protect the river as well as provide more access.

It was moved by Dr. Single and seconded by Mr. Frazier to provide direction to staff to proceed as recommended in the staff report. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

- G-4 Staff Presentation Regarding Draft Competitive Grant Guidelines and Public Participation for the Conservancy's Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program, Funded by Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 Bond Funds (Proposition 1)

Staff Recommendation: Staff will present a summary of the preliminary Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for informational purposes. No Board action is recommended other than to provide general direction to staff regarding the draft guidelines, public participation, and other issues within the scope of the agenda item.

Ms. Marks provided an overview of the process for developing competitive grant guidelines for Proposition 1 Bond Funds. She discussed the basic parameters to be considered and the Parkway planning area where funds could be used. The purpose of the program is a multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration program. Proposition 1 requires the Conservancy to leverage private, federal, and local funding opportunities to the extent possible. It is also intended to address the needs of disadvantaged and economically distressed communities--parts of the local area fit those criteria. She provided an overview of scope of projects that could receive Conservancy bond funds.

Mr. Janzen asked how the program might fund water resources projects on Conservancy and other state lands, such as gravel pit isolation projects. Ms. Marks reported that the Conservancy must find project sponsors—such as the Department of Water Resources, County of Madera, and Madera Irrigation District—and they could prepare and submit grant proposals. The grant Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package do not exclude those kinds of projects, but set up a new process for awarding funds to those projects.

Mr. Kemp confirmed that if the Conservancy wants to do a project on its land, it will need to partner with another agency or organization. He noted that competitive grants are new to the Conservancy, but not to most of the Resources agencies.

Dr. Single stated his appreciation for the extra workload the staff is taking on to put the guidelines together and administer the new program.

Ms. Marks reported that Heidi West from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) provided a great deal of assistance.

Ms. Marks summarized the eligibility and evaluation criteria in the draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package.

Ms. Finn emphasized that the highest priorities are water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration, consistent with the California Water Action Plan.

Mr. Kemp made the point that water resources benefits should be on top of the list of evaluation criteria.

Ms. Marks described the proposal evaluation and selection process in the draft Guidelines. The evaluation panel will be professionals involved in water resources management and with technical expertise. The panel will independently review and score the applications, rank them, and make recommendations to the Board. Before the Board meeting the recommendations will be made available for public review. If approved by the Board, the recommendations will go to WCB for consideration and approval. Once approved by WCB the grant agreement will be executed and administered.

On inquiry from Ms. Finn, Mr. Kemp confirmed that the Conservancy's capital funds, including Proposition 1 funds in the Governor's proposed budget, are appropriated to and go through approval by WCB.

Ms. Marks explained that although Proposition 1 requires a total of three public meetings in the north, central, and south part of the state to provide information and take comments on the draft guidelines, the Resources Agency has advised that the very small conservancies may instead have their three meetings in the various reaches of their service areas or jurisdictions. Ms. Marks proposed that the three public workshops be held in Fresno, Madera, and Friant. Next fall the staff will come back to the Board to authorize the release of the first cycle of grant solicitations with a goal of awarding funds a year from May.

Mr. Kemp suggested an edit to the guidelines with regard to the sentence requiring projects to be either land acquisitions or capital improvements.

Mr. Gibson questioned whether the grant guidelines should focus on the kinds of projects that have been among the Conservancy's high priorities, such as off-stream fishing improvements. Ms. Marks reported that the Guidelines and PSP are written so that the Conservancy can accept applications for

any projects that are eligible according to the provisions of the Act. The Conservancy can use the scoring criteria established with each PSP to give weight to the priorities of the Conservancy.

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Nolan left the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

The Board indicated its concurrence regarding proceeding with the public meetings as proposed by staff, once Resources Agency has approved the drafts for public release.

G-5 Report on Feasibility of Connecting Bluff Pointe Golf Course Drinking Water to City of Fresno Municipal Water System, and Pending Transient Non-Community Drinking Water System Permit Application

Chairperson Brandau, with Board consensus, carried over this item to the next month's Board meeting.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

H-1 Organizations

H-1a San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

None.

H-1b RiverTree Volunteers

Richard Sloan reported on RiverTree Volunteers' activities such as painting over graffiti at Wildwood Native Park and Proctor Broadwell Cobb and reporting illegal camps to the police. He also noted that camp fires are occurring more frequently.

Chairperson Brandau thanked Mr. Sloan for showing him some of the encampments that are located along the river. He also noted that the brush is very dry.

H-2 Deputy Attorney General

None.

H-3 Executive Officer

Ms. Marks reported that the comment period for the proposed gravel pit isolation project Mitigated Negative Declaration closes on February 25th and the Board will be consider approval at March's meeting. She noted that the Jenco Farms acquisition is scheduled for approval at the WCB meeting on February 25th. For the River West Fresno Environmental Impact Report contract amendment, the Conservancy still has not received a notice to proceed from the State.

Public comment:

Mr. Barry Bauer, Herb Bauer Sporting Goods, asked when the notice to proceed for the River West Fresno EIR was expected to be issued. Ms. Marks responded that the State's review of the River West Fresno EIR contract amendment was taking several months.

H-3a Committee Reports

The meeting summary for the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan Update and Environmental Impact Report Technical Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 2, 2015 was included in the Board packet.

H-4 Board Members' Reports

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public Comment:

Prior to convening in Executive Session, members of the public may address the Board on Executive Session agenda items.

None.

J. NOTICE OF BOARD, ADVISORY, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

In March 2015 the Conservancy will hold public meetings to receive comments on the draft guidelines for applications and awards of Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) Bond Funds. Please see www.sjrc.ca.gov or contact Rebecca Harris, Staff Services Analyst, at (559) 253-7324 extension 2, or info@sjrc.ca.gov to receive a notice of the date, time and place of the meetings.

K. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

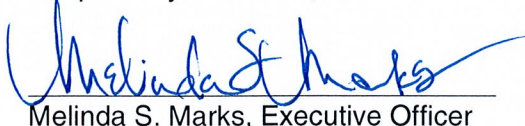
The next meeting of the Board will be held March 18, at 10:00 a.m. (Please note an earlier start time is observed March through October.)

L. ADJOURN

Chairperson Brandau adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:44 p.m.

Board meeting notices, agendas, and approved minutes are posted on the Conservancy's website, www.sjrc.ca.gov. For further information or if you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Rebecca Harris at (559) 253-7324 or Rebecca.Harris@sjrc.ca.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melinda S. Marks", is written over a horizontal line.

Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer